



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/249,292	02/12/99	ONO	T 503.36911X00

020457 IM22/0104
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EXAMINER

OLSEN, A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED:

01/04/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trad marks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/249,292

Applicant(s)

ONO ET AL.

Examiner

Allan W. Olsen

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent 6,129,806 issued to Kaji et al. (hereinafter, Kaji).

Kaji teaches the use of an independently controlled, RF bias that is pulsed with an amplitude of between 20 V to 1000V and a duty ratio of 5 to 40 %. Kaji teaches that the frequency of the bias voltage is in the range of 10 MHz to 500 MHz. Kaji teaches adjusting the bias voltage so as to switch from a low selectivity to high selectivity etching condition. For particularly relevant passages see: col. 8, lns 8-67; col. 9, ln 65 – col. 10, ln 5; col. 19, lns 45-50; col. 21, lns 8-12; col. 22, lns 10-48.

With regard to the limitation of claim 1 that the Vpp of the pulsed bias be greater than the Vpp for continuous bias process producing the same etch rate the examiner considers this to be inherent feature of a pulsed bias process. Because of the cessation of bias power during the etching process it is characteristic for a pulsed bias processes to have a lower etching rate than a process operated with a continuous bias power. Therefore, in order to achieve an etch rate for pulsed bias process that is equal to the etch rate of a continuous bias process the Vpp must be increased to increase the

Application/Control Number: 09/249,292

Art Unit: 1746

etch rate while the bias is on so as to compensate for the reduced etch rate while the bias is off.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following references are very relevant and in conjunction with the examiner's stated position of inherency with regard to the Vpp of a pulsed bias process being greater than the Vpp of a continuous bias process, these references possibly provide the basis for a 102 rejections.

4,585,516 – Corn et al.; 5,352,324 – Gotoh et al.; 5,983,828 – Savas;

6,093,332 – Winniczek et al. and 6,129,806 – Kaji et al.

However, in view of the above rejection, to avoid undue multiplicity of rejections no additional rejections are being made at this point in time.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allan Olsen whose telephone number is (703) 306-9075. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski, can be reached on (703) 308-4333. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7719.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Application/Control Number: 09/249,292
Art Unit: 1746

Allan Olsen, Ph.D.
January 2, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Gulakowski".

RANDY GULAKOWSKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700